

## **Archivist's Report, FY 2013-2014**

### **International Archives of Women in Architecture (IAWA)**

**By Aaron D. Purcell**

**Director of Special Collections and IAWA Archivist**

#### **Overview**

During the past year, Special Collections continued its joint partnership with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies to acquire, arrange, describe, provide access to, and promote IAWA collections. Sherrie Bowser led the effort to process, acquire, and promote IAWA collections. With the help of students and other staff she accessioned 8 new collections and processed 6 collections. In spring 2014, Sherrie Bowser moved on to another professional position in Illinois. In October 2014, Samantha Winn began work as Collections Archivist, with responsibilities for IAWA collections.

#### **Collection Highlights**

- Special Collections received 8 new IAWA collections during the past year, totaling 18.2 cubic feet of material and more than 274 Mb of digital photographs. (See Appendix 1, Acquired Accessions)
- With the help of staff, 7 IAWA collections were processed over the past year, totaling 33.6 cubic feet. (See Appendix 2, Processed Collections)
- There are now approximately 425 distinct IAWA collections totaling 1,787 cubic feet.
- Made 13 book purchases that directly support IAWA collections (See Appendix 3, New Purchases)
- Spring 2014, visit to Linda Kiisk in Sacramento, California to appraise and ship back her collection to Virginia Tech

#### **Research, Promotion, and Selected Uses of IAWA Collections**

- Held open house and sponsored exhibit for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CAUS, Fall 2014
- Assisted Robert Holton, Milka Bliznakov Research Prize winner, with onsite research on the role and contribution of Natalie de Blois in the design of three SOM projects (Lever House, Pepsi-Cola Headquarters, and Union Carbide) completed in New York City between 1950-1960
- Exhibit in Special Collections, IAWA: Examples of women's opportunities in architecture and design education, 1865-1993," Fall 2013
- Assisted Donna Dunay's 1st year studio class (ca. 40 students) to see Laretta Vinciarelli prints. Students created their own artwork based on Vinciarelli's prints which were exhibited in Cowgill, November 2013.
- Maintained IAWA Facebook page with frequent postings
- "In Special Collections @ Virginia Tech" featured IAWA centric posts once every 4-6 weeks (<http://vtspecialcollections.wordpress.com/tag/iawa/>)
- IAWA material used in Special Collections instructional sessions, Fall 2012-Spring 2013

- Sherrie Bowser, steering committee member, Architectural Records Roundtable, Society of American Archivists
- Aaron Purcell presented a paper on the challenges of electronic architectural records before the Architectural Records Roundtable at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists, Washington, D.C., August 2014
- Aaron Purcell presented a paper on working with international donors at the joint meeting of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) and the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) in Christchurch, New Zealand, October 2014
- Staff replied to nearly two dozen reference questions related to IAWA collections.
- IAWA Annual Meeting, October 2013

### **Support for IAWA**

- Several small donations received (See Appendix 4, Library 2013/2014-IAWA related accounts)

### **Biographical Database**

- Gail McMillan continued to oversee the IAWA Biographical Database. There are 2,436 publicly available records at, [http://lumiere.lib.vt.edu/iawa\\_db](http://lumiere.lib.vt.edu/iawa_db).

### **Mission and Vision**

Our efforts in developing the collections of the IAWA support the department's mission to build true research collections of manuscripts, books, and images for scholars, students, faculty, and other researchers to use. During the past year interest in IAWA materials, from faculty, students, architects, and scholars, remained steady. We have made IAWA collections a central part of our collection development efforts, our instructional sessions, and our campus outreach efforts. The ability to scan large format materials from IAWA collections has increased our joint efforts to promote the collections and research, as well as expand the department's digital projects and online presence.